

PENNSYLVANIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Harrisburg, Penna.

Arthur A. Socolow, *State Geologist*

FIELD TRIP

GUIDE

Fossil Collecting

SOMERSET COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

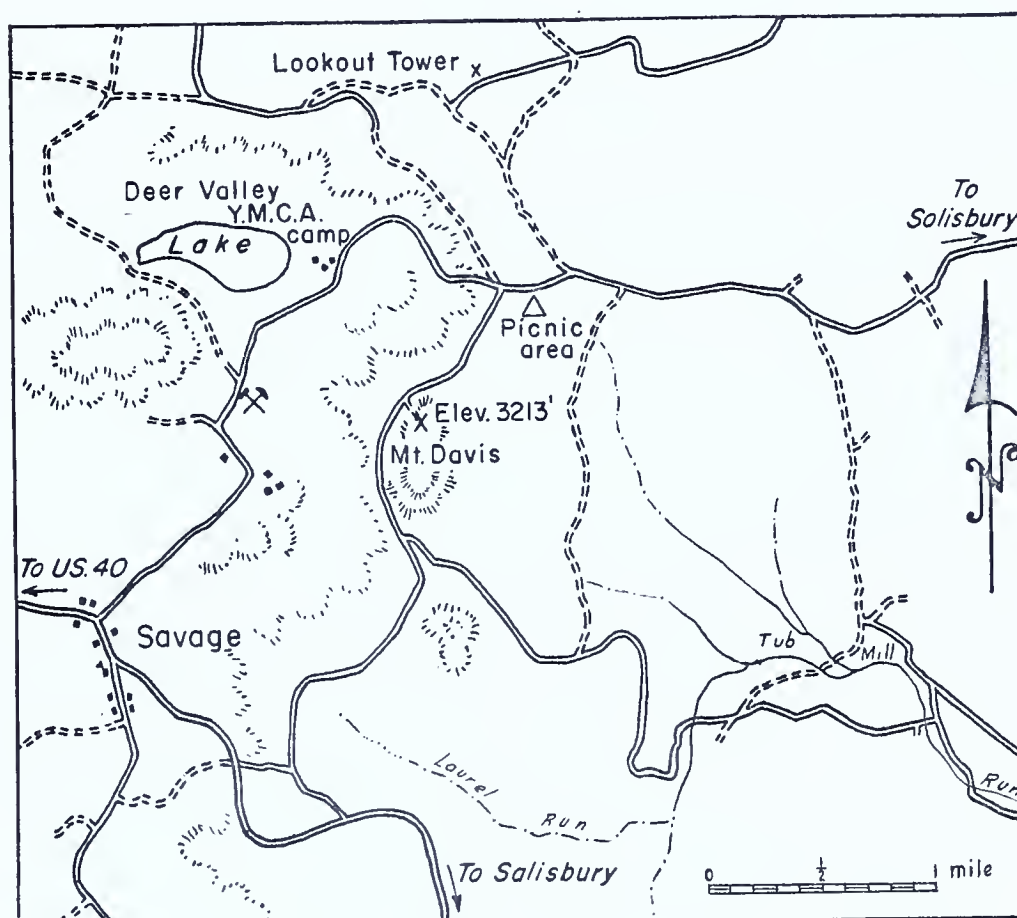
Genevieve Blatt, *Secretary*



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FOSSIL COLLECTING NEAR "TOP" OF PENNSYLVANIA



Location--In southern Somerset County, about 3/4 mile west of Mt. Davis, the highest point in Pennsylvania, very fossiliferous limestone is mined and used as quarry rock.

The best site for fossil collecting is at the Keystone Lime Co. mine (indicated on the map by the crossed hammers). The mine is on the east side of the macadam road 1.8 miles west of the Mt. Davis State Forest Picnic Area. Fossils are abundant in some layers of the limestone exposed on either side of the mine opening. Do not enter the mine, this is private property.

The most accessible fossils are on the waste dump from the mine. The dump is located about 100 yards south of the mine on the west side of the road. Here the unusable shaly limestone has been discarded and weathering has broken the rock apart so that the fossils are easily collected.

Fossils--The limestone at the locality is full of fossils, mostly specimens of the Phylum Brachiopoda. A partial list of genera to be found is given below. Sketches of the most common fossils are shown in the diagram.

BRACHIOPODA
Orthis
Spirifer
Protoniella
Composita

TRILOBITA
Kaskia

BRYOZOA
Batostomella
Fenestrellina



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Some of the fossils, i.e., the Bryozoa and the genus Orthotetes, are very fragile and few complete specimens of these fossils are found. However, diligent search should provide good specimens of these plus the rare Trilobite genus Kaskia. Only the "tail" (pygidium) of this fossil has been found here. You may be lucky and find a head (cephalon).

Geology--The limestone at this locality is called the Greenbrier limestone. It was formed about 330 million years ago and is included to the Mississippian Period. All the fossils found here are extinct.

Only the lower 10 feet of the limestone are used by the Keystone Lime Co. The seven feet of shaly limestone overlying the commercial bed contain too many impurities (mostly clay) to be used. This portion of the bed contains most of the fossils. When you make plans to visit this locality, include a trip to nearby Mt. Davis, the "top" of Pennsylvania.

